

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-19 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-10 and 20 have been rejected. Claims 1-19 have been canceled. No claims have been amended. New claims 21-37 have been added.

I. New Claims

New claims 21-37 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced through the addition of these claims, and that support for these new claims exists throughout the specification and original claims as filed. Support for new claims 21 and 30 can be found at, for example, originally filed claims 1, 2 and 6, Figures 3-8, and paragraphs 0029-0032 and 0035-0037 of the specification as filed. Support for new claims 22 and 31 can be found at, for example, originally filed claim 4 and paragraph 0030 of the specification as filed. Support for new claims 26-28 and 35-36 can be found at, for example, Figures 6-8 and paragraphs 0035-0036 of the specification as filed. Support for new claims 29 and 37 can be found at, for example, Figures 3-5 and paragraphs 0030-0034 of the specification as filed. Support for the remaining new claims can be found at least in the original claims as filed.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,249,227 to Brady, et al. (“Brady”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-10

Although Applicants traverse these rejections, particularly on the basis that modifications to the prior art have been made without any adequate showing within the prior

art itself regarding a motivation to modify in the manner that has been done, Applicants have nevertheless canceled these claims in favor of the newly added claims in order to further prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these now canceled claims in this or any suitable continuing or divisional application.

Claim 20

With respect to independent claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending rejection is untenable. In order to render a claim unpatentable, the prior art must teach or suggest every material element of that claim. Unlike the other claims originally filed in this case, claim 20 has been drafted in “means-plus-function” format. As such, interpretation of the means-plus-function elements of claim 20 “shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof.” See 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6.

Claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, “a connecting means for connecting one or more antennae to said integrated circuit means.” Per 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6, Applicants respectfully submit that any “connecting means” used from the recited prior art to reject claim 20 must be identical to or a legal equivalent of one of the connecting means disclosed by Applicants in the specification filed for this application. Applicants also respectfully submit that the corresponding “connecting means” provided within the specification of the filed application include the various poles and pole arrangements that are a part of the RFID package, such as those shown at Figures 3, 6 and 9a/9b and described in the accompanying written description. Conversely, the “connecting means” alleged from Brady are a non-analogous RF cable 444 and RF connector 446 that are not a part of the actual RFIDIC or package 424. As such, these items from Brady cannot be used as the “connecting means” from claim 20 of the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the pending obviousness rejection for claim 20, and that this claim be passed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and request a Notification of Allowance to that effect. It is believed that no fees are due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this document or application in general, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee or fees to Deposit Account No.50-0388, referencing Docket No. NSC1P276. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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